**CLAIMS:**

1.      Apparatus for providing a proxy service between one or more client platforms and one or more remote content providers providing electronic content or information, the apparatus comprising means for receiving and interpreting a request from a client platform for electronic content from a content provider, means for transmitting said request to said content provider and for receiving data including at least one marker identifying the location of a remote information handling and/or policy enforcement server appropriate to the content being requested, means for interpreting said one or more markers and transmitting a request on behalf of said client platform for a clear-content version of said content for transmission to said client platform provided that the requirements of the information handling and/or policy enforcement server are met.

2.      Apparatus for providing a proxy service between one or more client platforms and one or more remote platforms arranged to receive electronic content or information from said one or more client platforms, the apparatus comprising means for receiving data from the client platform for transmission to a remote platform, said data being representative of the information or content to be provided to said remote platform and including at least one marker identifying the location of a remote information handling policy enforcement service appropriate to the information being provided, means for interpreting said one or more markers and transmitting a request to the appropriate information handling policy enforcement service for a clear-content version of said information to be provided to said remote location provided that the requirements of said information handling policy enforcement service are met.

3.      Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in response to a request for content for the proxy service, the content server returns a data stream including one or more markers including details of the location of one or more other services with which the proxy service must interact before a copy of the content can be transmitted to the client platform.

4.  Apparatus according to claim3, wherein the markers are preferably embedded within the data stream and only recognisable and interpretable by specific means provided within the proxy service.

5.  Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in transmitting a request for the content to the remote information handling/rights management server, the proxy service is arranged to include in the request data relating to the client platform, such as the session ID in the case where the client platform is a web browser of the like.

6.  Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one the request for content is received from the proxy service, and the information handling/rights management server has verified the legitimacy of the request, it creates a clear-content version of the content and stores it at a particular location, either locally or remotely and returns details of said location to the proxy service.

7.  Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said clear-content version of the content is stored temporarily.

8.  Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the proxy service in arranged to transmit the details of the location of which the clear-content version of the content is stored to the client platform, so that the client platform can retrieve said clear-content copy, if certain requirements of the information handling/rights management server are met.

9.  A method of providing a proxy service between one or more client platforms and one or more remote content servers providing electronic content, the method comprising the steps of receiving and interpreting a request from a client platform for electronic content from a content server, transmitting said request to said content server and for receiving data including at least one marker identifying the location of a remote

information handling and/or policy enforcement server appropriate to the content being requested, means for interpreting said one or more markers and transmitting a request on behalf of said client platform for a clear-content version of said content for transmission to said client platform provided that the requirements of said information handling and/or policy enforcement service are met.

10.  A method for providing a proxy service between one or more client platforms and one or more remote platforms arranged to receive electronic content or information from said one or more client platforms, the method comprising the steps of receiving data from a client platform for transmission to a remote platform, said data being representative of information or content to be provided to said remote platform and including at least one marker identifying the location of a remote information handling policy enforcement service appropriate to the information being provided, interpreting said one or more markers and transmitting a request to the appropriate information handling policy enforcement service for a clear-content version of said information to be provided to said remote location provided that the requirements of said information handling policy enforcement service are met.